



AGRICULTURES CONTRIBUTION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT

R. Rekha

Ph.D Research Scholar, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai-21

ABSTRACT

Agriculture and rural development concepts and create solutions not only in business terms, but also at the population level. NTU's operations also support in improving the productivity in the agricultural and rural context and in promoting civil rights and equality. The main issues approached are, among others, access to rural transport infrastructure, access to water and irrigation, poverty reduction, food security and nutrition for vulnerable rural households, strengthening of water supply and sanitation management and planning capacities, development of sustainable aquaculture, and improvement of living conditions in rural areas. Rural development policies should exploit the contribution of farming, both in terms of improving on-farm activities and supporting ancillary services, to secure sustainable development for rural areas. In the context of agricultural reform, WTO rules should contain sufficient flexibility to allow countries to promote rural development, especially to preserve social and political stability.

KEYWORDS: Agriculture and rural development, contribution of farming, promote rural development, access to rural transport infrastructure, access to water and irrigation, poverty reduction, etc.,

INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture and rural development concepts and create solutions not only in business terms, but also at the population level. NTU's operations also support in improving the productivity in the agricultural and rural context and in promoting civil rights and equality. The main issues approached are, among others, access to rural transport infrastructure, access to water and irrigation, poverty reduction, food security and nutrition for vulnerable rural households, strengthening of water supply and sanitation management and planning capacities, development of sustainable aquaculture, and improvement of living conditions in rural areas.

Agriculture and rural development comprise of: data collection and situational analysis of the agriculture and rural development sector; review and sharing of best practices in the field; development and implementation of sustainable agriculture and rural development strategies, policies, and programmes; rural development planning and coordination; support in rural investments; capacity strengthening of agriculture and rural development institutions; capacity strengthening of local communities in rural development and improved agricultural production; support in integrating the notion of gender in food and nutrition security; procurement, construction and supervision of irrigation schemes; support in infrastructure design, construction, supervision, maintenance and rehabilitation for input supplies, agricultural production and general rural accessibility; etc.

IMPORTANCE OF FARMING:

1. In rural areas throughout the world, agriculture represents the predominant land use and a major component of the viability of rural areas. Farming and related activities make up the basic fabric of rural life, contributing significantly to the overall state of rural regions in terms of employment and business opportunities, infrastructure and quality of the environment.
2. The degree to which farming represents a share of the rural economy, and hence its relative importance as a sector, determines its potential economic contribution to rural development. In some countries, farming may be the primary economic activity of a region and support the vast majority of the population in employment. In such regions, it is clear that overall social and political stability is inextricably linked with the condition of the agriculture sector.
3. However, in most economically developed countries, farming accounts for a relatively small part of a diversified rural economy, and in addition the significance of agriculture in terms of the proportion of national wealth and employment is, in most regions, in decline. This does not lessen the potential role of farming in rural development in those countries, but the contribution of alternative economic activities, which may offer durable prospects for employment and economic progress, should also be included.
4. Since the contribution of farming to rural development in different countries varies to a great extent, policy responses need to be correspondingly distinguished, with the aim of maximizing benefits to society.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Rural development is understood primarily in the economic sense of the process of assuring a progressive improvement in economic security of people in rural

areas. Rural areas are usually defined in terms of maximum population density, with figures varying from 150 to 500 inhabitants per square kilometer, depending on the structure of society. While any economic activity in rural areas will have the potential to contribute to rural development, the particular roles farming may play fall into four broad categories:

1. **Employment:** In countries whose share of overall employment in agriculture is at high levels, for example where farmers represent over 50% of the workforce, farming is likely to be the key economic activity determining the progress of rural development. With such a substantial proportion of the labour force engaged in agriculture, any policy which led to a swift and artificial reduction in employment could have disastrous consequences for the labour-force and dependants, leading to social and political instability.
2. **Related economy:** The farm sector in every country supports a range of ancillary and service industries, generating economic activity in supply and distribution chains as well as processing industries. Where farming is the primary economic activity, the entire rural economy, including services such as health care, education and basic infrastructure, may depend on the profitability of the sector.
3. **In remote and peripheral areas:** where society has identified a legitimate priority to prevent depopulation, farming is likely to be one of a limited range of economic activities possible to maintain the economic viability of the region.
4. Throughout rural areas, farming may contribute to rural development by providing environmental and cultural services to society.
5. These actions include support for rural development by means both of on-farm and non-farming activities for which the state of agriculture is nevertheless a critical factor.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE INCREASINGLY CONFRONTED TO THE FOLLOWING CHALLENGES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Reducing poverty through rural development strategies and supporting the main driving forces for economic growth and social development in rural areas.
- Enhancing food security.
- Enhancing agricultural productivity and farmer's incomes.
- Developing infrastructure and access to water.
- Improving sustainable access to unconnected areas and markets.
- Implementing efficient agrarian reforms.
- Establishing early warning systems for monitoring food supply and weather insurance schemes for farmers.

- Diversifying agricultural production systems.
- Promoting sustainable agriculture.
- Reducing the environmental impact of agricultural production.

Thus, it is extremely important to improve the efficiency of resource use, develop infrastructure that fosters stronger links between farmers and markets, promote R&D in the sector, and reduce the environmental impact of agriculture activities.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FACTS:

1. Most farmers in the developing world are smallholders.
2. Agricultural development is one of the most powerful tools to end extreme poverty and to feed a projected 9.7 billion people by 2050: growth in the agriculture sector is two to four times more effective in raising incomes among the poorest compared to other sectors.
3. The current food system threatens the health of people and the planet; agriculture accounts for 70 percent of water use and generates unsustainable levels of pollution and waste. 1/3 of food produced globally is either lost or wasted.

THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ENDING POVERTY AND BOOSTING SHARED PROSPERITY:

Three-quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas and most earn their living from farming. Enhancing agricultural productivity is thus essential to achieving poverty reduction. Productivity growth in agriculture is also the driving force behind structural transformation.

His purpose of this research program is twofold:

- Provide guidance on productivity enhancing investments in, and policies toward, the agriculture sector
- Understand the transformation of the sector that is already underway and how this has contributed to ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

SUMMARY:

Farming is the fabric of rural society and, in many countries of the world; it is the main economic activity. Any sudden and profound changes which impacted on the farm sector could have severe consequences in terms of social and political stability in economically developing countries. Agriculture also plays an important part in rural development, especially due to land use, in countries where the sector is of less economic significance. The main potential contributions of farming to rural development are in terms of supporting employment, ancillary businesses, and environmental services. In peripheral regions, farming may be necessary to support the economic and social infrastructure. Rural development policies should exploit the contribution of farming, both in terms of improving on-farm activities and supporting ancillary services, to secure sustainable development for rural areas. In the context of agricultural reform, WTO rules should contain sufficient flexibility to allow countries to promote rural development, especially to preserve social and political stability.

CONCLUSIONS:

The right of countries to pursue rural development policies in which agriculture plays a key role must be recognized. In regions of the world where farming represents a dominant rural economic activity, countries should have the means at their disposal to avert disruptive and potentially catastrophic social and political upheavals caused by a rapid decline in the economic condition of the farm sector. In other rural areas, where farm employment accounts for a small portion of the workforce, a broader approach to rural development and the role of farming in the process, including policies to diversify income sources, may be needed. In peripheral regions, the continued viability of rural areas depends to a large extent on policies to maintain the farming sector. Rural development policies which affect the agricultural sector should follow the principle of being no more than minimally trade-distorting and allow structural changes to occur. In the context of agricultural reform, WTO rules should contain sufficient flexibility to allow countries to promote rural development and preserve social and political stability.

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